

**City of San Diego
MEDICAL MARIJUANA/CANNABIS TASK FORCE**

**MEETING SUMMARY FOR
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 2002 @ 12 NOON**

**EXECUTIVE COMPLEX - 5TH FLOOR
1010 SECOND AVENUE**

(For Information contact Ed Plank,
Task Force staff, 619-236-6433)

Attendance:

The following Task Force members were in attendance: St. Clair Adams, Dale Kelly Bankhead, Mike Barbee, Michael Bartelmo, Dr. Al Best, Larry Chaidez, Juliana Humphrey, Conley Major, Steve McWilliams, Jerry Meier, Dr. Daniel Pearce, Ann Shanahan-Walsh, Staff: Lt. Carl Black, Ed Plank

Review of Summary from December Meeting

Task Force asked for summary to be revised to reflect that the motion was not to exclude Paul Cooper but to replace him with a staff person who would solely represent the City Attorney's office. Paul would remain as a representative of the Police Department.

Website Brainstorming

Jerry Meier led the Task Force in a brainstorming session of objectives and content for a potential City website on Medical Cannabis. Jerry will transcribe and organize the notes and distribute to Task Force for review and comment.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Medical Research Subcommittee

UCSD will be contacted to see if a Task Force field trip can be arranged.

GNW Pharmaceuticals is beginning a study on cannabis use by cancer/pain patients. The Subcommittee is turning its focus to current research consisting of GNW Pharmaceuticals, UCSD, San Francisco and Migraine related research in Montana.

The Chair mentioned suggested subcommittee consider some medical research studies which concluded in the early 90's. Task Force discussion ensued regarding concern that federal government is discounting past research and relying only on current research initiatives just now getting under way.

Patient/Doctor Issues Subcommittee

Jerry Meier provided a draft overview of medical provider survey results and asked Task Force members to not disseminate the information until the subcommittee had a chance to review and discuss.

Some highlights were noted including the extent to which providers indicated receiving requests for medical cannabis information. Results suggest limited distribution of Marinol and discussion ensued on potential reasons including marketing and narrow focus on use for HIV related weight loss versus chronic pain and other illnesses. Results indicate a lack of information available for medical providers. Significant percentage indicated willingness to prescribe cannabis, with a significant percentage not sure.

Suggestion was made to make presentation of results to the medical society. Jerry indicated a survey results summary would be provided to the doctors.

Status of press release to encourage additional on line responses to patient survey was requested. Ed to follow up.

Suggestion made to share results at February 6th PS&NS committee meeting so that information can be considered as part of Council discussion on the verification card program.

Legislative Efforts Subcommittee

Anticipated that verification card proposal will be docketed at Council on February 12th although the date has not been confirmed. Dale encouraged outreach into the community to get a good turnout at the Council meeting for discussion of the item.

Ed to ensure that final drafts of Ordinance have been provided to Paul Cooper and Lt. Black for review prior to Council discussion. Dale indicated that several of the concerns raised by PD when the item was at committee have been addressed, however it is anticipated that PD will still express concerns at Council. Dale noted that the City Attorney's Office had concerns over the inclusion of specific amounts and numbers of patients in the Ordinance, since the State law is vague on these points.

Task Force discussed the suggestion of holding a press conference. Chair encouraged that this be coordinated with the Council Offices, perhaps with PS&NS meeting if medical provider data is discussed by the Committee the first week of February. Task Force approved Dr. Best's motion to provide an informational report to the PS&NS Committee on results of medical provider survey. Jerry Meier to work with Doctor/Patient Subcommittee to prepare report.

Dale reported SB 187 ready to go to the floor. Based on conversations with office of Senator Vasconcellos, the request is to have Governmental Relations convey the City Council's support for SB 187 to Governor Davis to encourage his support for the legislation. Ed to convey this request to Governmental Relations.

Dale noted the subcommittee should have a proposal on guidelines for growing for Task Force consideration at February meeting.

Chair read letter from Chief Bejarano on Lt. Black's role and future coordination with the Task Force on its work.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee

St. Clair reported on meeting with Attorney from CAMC regarding the status of their court case, suggestions on legislative and law enforcement issues, and Police policies and procedures, and the potential for locked growing facilities. The Attorney had particular concerns over combined growing efforts and security of such facilities.

The Chair encouraged subcommittees to put proposals in writing to facilitate and expedite Task Force review and consideration.

Noted that Lt. Black was promoted to NTF (Narcotics Task Force). Lt. Cesar Solis was introduced as joining the Narcotics Section. He will be attending Task Force meetings.

Advocacy Subcommittee

Steve referred to the Clean Syringe Exchange initiative and how the concern over location was the focus of the discussion. He anticipated questions on amounts would be the focus when the verification card program was considered and encouraged the subcommittee to be prepared to present a proposal on quantity guidelines at that time. After some discussion, it was determined that the Task Force will not have its recommended guidelines ready for discussion by mid-February, but could indicate that a proposal is being developed that would reflect amounts greater than those proposed in the verification card ordinance.

Steve mentioned that representative from City Attorney's office had visited his operation and was supportive of what he was doing.

Public Comments

Concern was expressed over the number of patients a care giver could care for in the verification card proposal

It was suggested that the City consider setting up a Foundation or endowment type fund so that contributions could be made to provide funds for subsidy of verification card fees, website maintenance, etc. Ed to investigate the concept with City Development staff.